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The Foraging Behavior of the American Toad (*Anaxyrus americanus*)

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The research objectives of the project were to record the foraging behavior of the American Toad (*Anaxyrus americanus*), develop detailed ethograms of the behaviors recorded as well as detailed descriptions of the foraging behaviors and strategies in order to properly report and document the behaviors as there is a lack of observational studies of the foraging behavior for *A. americanus*. Assumptions of the foraging strategies of *A. americanus* can be found within the literature as the foraging behavior of this species is assumed to be similar to that of anurans that utilize sit-and-wait strategies, this project aimed to clear up the gaps in the study of the foraging strategies as well as determine whether or not this species utilized sit-and-wait or active foraging strategies. The foraging behaviors of two American toads were tested with banded crickets and recorded via video. One toad was housed with other toads and fed regularly while the other toad was housed separately and fed only during the recording sessions. Recording sessions consisted of 20 minute observation bouts of an individual toad in an enclosure with 10 crickets. The male that was not separated and fed regularly exhibited a full range of foraging behaviors and was more active than the separated male was. The separated male utilized a sit-and-wait hunting strategy most likely due to less energy reserves while the unseparated male utilized a hybrid of active foraging and sit-and-wait most likely due to higher energy reserves. 10+ hours of feeding footage was recorded, with 2 hours being quantified and utilized to construct the ethogram, behavior cycle graph and descriptions of the behaviors.